SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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Address: HT 1217 B-SVN
c/o DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

"The forthcoming Algiers Summit will give vigorous support to the national liberation movement of the Third World countries"

Answers of Mme NGUYEN THI BINH, *Foreign Minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to the questions of Mr TEODOR OLIC, General Editor of the Yugoslav News Agency* TANJUG.

QUESTION: *Your Excellency, in your opinion, which is the most important success achieved by the movement of the Non-Aligned countries since the Lusaka Conference?*

ANSWER: Only three years since the Lusaka Conference, the movement of the Non-Aligned countries has made important progress in many fields as compared with any period in the past. Worthnoticing is the trend against US-led imperialism and colonialism old and new, for peace and security in the world, for sovereignty and national independence. This trend has specially developed in the Third World. As a result, the movement of the Non-Aligned countries has been ceaselessly consolidated and expanded.

This encouraging event testifies to the correct and attractive character of the line persistently pursued by the movement of the Non-Aligned countries since its coming into being. That line has not only responded to the earnest demands of the peoples of the Non-Aligned countries, but also conformed with the aspirations of all nations over the world.

I think that the Non-Aligned countries' recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia as official members of the movement at the Georgetown Conference, as well as the great victories recorded since then by the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples in their just struggle for independence and freedom against the US aggressors and their stooges, have contributed to clearly raise the role and perstige of the movement of the Non-Aligned countries.

QUESTION: *What do you think, Madame, about the role of the Non-Aligned countries in the world and in the settlement of international problems?*

ANSWER: Nowaday, the system of imperialism and colonialism old and new has been weakened more than ever before, and a typical evidence of it is the failure of the US imperialists in Viet Nam and Indochina. While being forced to speak of an era of peace and negotiations, the US imperialists, aggressive by their nature, are reluctant to give up their design to dominate other nations. They are making all-out efforts to counter-attack the national liberation movements and threaten and divide the countries of the Third World in a bid to maintain their oppression, enslavement and exploitation by all brutal and perfidious measures, particularly by their policy of neo-colonialism.

Therefore, to defend their sovereignty and national independence and to contribute to the common movement, the Non-Aligned countries should uphold vigilance, strengthen unity and resolutely continue the struggle to defeat completely imperialism and colonialism old and new headed by the US imperialists.

Though still facing many difficulties, the movement of the Non-Aligned countries has in the present situation many basic and great advantages. Its voice and prestige have an increasing weight in the international arena. Its role in the world and in the settlement of international problems will be ever more strengthened and will have greater effect if the movement of the Non-Aligned countries combines the above-mentioned fundamental task and objective because they are earnest aspirations and urgent demands and also the considerable strength of thousands of millions of people in most of the countries in this planet that have rallied in the movement of the Non-Aligned countries.

QUESTION: *What do your Excellency expect from the coming 4th Summit Conference in Algiers?*

ANSWER: The important successes recorded by the movement of the Non-Aligned countries in the recent past have created realistic possibility for the coming 4th Summit Conference in Algiers to confirm further the common stand, line and objective of the movement on the basis of strengthening the solidarity and resolutely continuing the struggle against imperialism and colonialism old and new, especially against neo-colonialism, a great danger in the present situation.

I am convinced that on that basis and to respond to the aspirations of thousands of millions of people in the world, this important Conference will come to resolute conclusions and take appropriate measures to strongly support the national liberation movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and energetically support the just struggle of the countries of the Third World to consolidate and strengthen national independence and sovereignty in all fields, political, military, economic...

I am also convinced that in that spirit, the coming Algiers Summit Conference will pay special attention and give strong support to the struggle in its new stage of the South Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, with a view to defending and guaranteeing the scrupulous and thorough implementation of the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam, achieving the independence and democracy in South Viet Nam, and proceeding towards the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland, and at the same time, strongly support the just struggle of the Lao and Cambodian people against the US imperialist aggressors and their henchmen till final victory.

QUESTION: *What special contribution would Your Excellency's Government make to the coming activities of the movement of the Non-Aligned countries?*

ANSWER: For 20 years now, with their schemes of invading South Viet Nam to make it a military base and a new-type colony and to perpetuate the partition of our country, the US imperialists have used South Viet Nam as a testing ground and key point of the "Nixon doctrine" in a bid to oppress and enslave the nations in Southeast Asia and in the world. But the persistent and valiant fight of our people, with the sympathy, support and assistance of progressive mankind, has recorded tremendous victories, leading to the signing of the January 27, 1973 Paris Agreement. I think that through their fight full of sacrifices and hardships and their glorious victories, our people and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam have made a realistic and considerable contribution to the national liberation movements, the movement of the Non-Aligned countries and the struggle of the countries of the Third World and of the peoples in the whole world for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

The Vietnamese people always realize that their just struggle which is going on for independence, freedom and genuine peace is an integral part of the common revolutionary movement in the world.

As a loyal friend of the national liberation movement and a member of the big family of the Non-Aligned countries, with its foreign policy of independence, peace and neutrality, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam unswervingly pledges to make its utmost together with the governments participating in the Summit Conference in Algiers to bring it to fine successes. Our Government will actively contribute to ceaselessly strengthen the unity of the forces struggling against imperialism, and colonialism old and new, among the movement of the Non-Aligned countries, to make it advance and play a notable and effective role in the settlement of the main questions, as well as in the participation in the settlement of other international questions, for the sake of peace, national independence, democracy and social progress in our time.

On this occasion, allow me to convey to the people and the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia my sincere congratulations and gratitude for their warm and active support to the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people.

Inhuman US-Thieu penitentiary system

Nguyen Trung Tin, 46, *native of Ben Tre, arrested on Sept. 18, 1958 and detained since at Con Dao (Poulo Condor) prison was released on July 23 this year at Loc Ninh airport. He denounced to home opinion and peace and justice-loving opinion abroad the treatment inflicted on political prisoners in the said prison.*

Stone-walled tiger cages for moral and physical liquidation of patriots

"AT the far end of Camp 2, one of the eight biggest at Con Dao, there is a stone-walled underground. It is divided by partitions also made of stone into 4 large and 16 small cells, each with a row of shackles. A small cell is large enough for one prisoner to lie down but it usually has to house two or three. Con Son inmates nick-name the stone cells of Camp 2 a "fire hell on earth." There "important" political prisoners are kept in solitary confinement, ill-treated and often liquidated.

One of the most typically tragic event was the transfer to Camp 2 of 30 political detainees from Camp 4 on March 31, 1972. These were suspected of having taken part in the punishment of camp chief Nguyen Van Muoi, one of the most wicked warders on Con Dao. Thugs took them to the Security Committee then to the Police Department where they were subjected to interrogation and all kinds of torture for two months. They were finally put in Camp 2. Le Quang Vinh of Hue, 38, teacher at the Truong Vinh Ky secondary school, and I were shifted here from stone cells of Camp 3. We were kept separately by twos, feet in fetters day and night, all doors shut, in complete darkness. The warders used common law offenders that they had transformed into thugs to watch over us: these abused and beat us up whenever they liked.

Warders and thugs appropriated our clothing and other property, except for the shirts and trousers we were wearing. All through the detention period we had but rags on and had to lie on a cement floor without even a torn mat. If in the dry season we were wet through with sweat, in winter we suffered from biting cold, apart from mosquitoes and bed bugs — we were but bags of bones. Toilet buckets cracked and lidless, were put inside the cells: urine mixed with excrement, flies and worms invaded our cells, permeated by an unbearable stink all the year round. Once a week hard-labour convicts came to take the buckets away and brings in water which we washed ourselves always with feet shackled.

Our food was unfit to feed animals. A meal would consist of a small bowlful of rice and a small pickled fish or a tiny dried fish the size of two fingers or a bit of shrimp paste spread on the rice. At meal time the door was opened wide enough for our bowls to pass through; after our meals we had to drink out of them the only water ration of the day.

No medical attention was given us when we were ill. In case of serious illness we had to shout again and again for care until the thugs came to abuse and threaten us before fetching nurses. These would stand outside, ask a few brief questions and hand in some tablets of drug in the most perfunctory way.

The Con Dao prison authorities were bent on making away with the detainees. Nguyen Viet Hung, a 27-year-old student native of Quang Nam got seriously sick of dysentery in July 19, 1973. They did not send in nurses nor gave him clean water to drink. When the student was in a critical situation, we screamed for help and superintendent Nguyen Van Vung came, saying to the warders watching over us: "Wait until he's dead to make a report and take his corpse away. No care and no medicament." Two hours later Hung breathed his last in cell 16, his feet always in shackles.

After the signing of the Paris Agreement, Thieu's agents at Con Dao maintained that horrible situation. Several times we asked for an interview with the directorate, and demanded to be unshackled and released from prison, and that exhausted survivors—paralysed or crippled — be taken care of. Prison authorities turned a deaf ear to us. On Tet eve, exactly at midnight, we again asked to see the management and to be unshackled during the three Tet days; in answer they sent in thugs to open the cell doors and throw in dried fish brine, boiling water, filthy water and stones. Many had burns on their bodies, others were wounded, all were wet through and intolerably stank.

On the night of March 5, 1973, Dr Nguyen Giai, 52, native of Quang Nam, detained in Cell 5, fainted from exhaustion, half of his body paralysed. We called for help. The same superintendent Nguyen Van Vung sent in a nurse: the latter remained outside, asked what the doctor was suffering from and, as a rule, just handed in some tablets. As Dr Nguyen Giai got worse and worse — he could hardly breathe — we called again for help. By 8 a.m. on March 6, a man nurse came on orders from superintendent Nguyen Van Muon, but as he opened the door of the cell, the doctor had already died.

On March 14, 1973, prison director Nguyen Van Ve (reputed for his brutality and perfidy) who had taken over from Dao Van Pho, ordered superintendent Nguyen Van Phuc, head of the Security Committee, to surround the stone-walled camp with 30 thugs armed with daggers, truncheons and sticks. The rascals opened the doors of all cells, knocked down the inmates one after the other and took away 21 whom they held in tiger cages of Camps 7, 9 of them in underground ones. They regarded the latter as 9 common-law criminals. By mid-May they took them somewhere in Saigon. Since then they have not been heard of. Among the 9 were Phan Van Phinh, 40, of Moc Hoa (Kien Tuong), Nguyen Van Pho, Nguyen Van Quyen of Binh Thuan, Nguyen Van Tu and Le Van Hoat...

Big tiger cages to subject important cadres to a slow death and liquidate political prisoners

Big tiger cage Camp 7 built by the Saigon administration in 1970 consists of eight sectors with 48 underground cells each, i.e. 394 cells in all, each holding two to five persons.

Prison authorities brought from Camp 2 to Camp 7 21 detainees, including Ho Van Ngoan, 36, of Ben Tre, Nguyen Van Xa of Rach Gia, Tran Van Chinh, a student, of Saigon, Nguyen Hai Nam of Quang Nam. They usually turn common law offenders into thugs to watch and maltreat political prisoners. They still detain 300 people in Camp 7 in Sectors E, F, G and F, including 33 political prisoners sentenced to death in Sector E. Here are the names of a number of political detainees held in tiger cages of Camp 7: Le Cau of Quang Nam, Le Van Thanh of Saigon, Phan Huy Van of Hue, Le Thanh Tu, Ha Ky Ngo of Quang Nam, Cao Duy Tuan, a student and Ngo Quoc Quan of Saigon, Tran Van Dung of Bien Hoa, Ho Van Hien and Ho Dac Dung, students of Dalat and other students such as Ha Dinh Nguyen, Nguyen Xuan Ham, Vo Dinh Nghia, Le Nghiem, Nguyen Quoc Son; another group of 14 students were deported to Con Dao in mid-December 1972. After their arrival on the island the latter were confined to Camp 2, and on January 29, 1973 when pressure put on them to apply for the "open arms partisan" status proved fruitless, they were kept in cow-houses for one month and then sent back to tiger cages of Camp 7.

On April 14, Con Dao prison authorities transfered Le Quang Vinh and myself to Camp 7 where we witnessed scenes of horrors visited on political prisoners. Following are some samples:

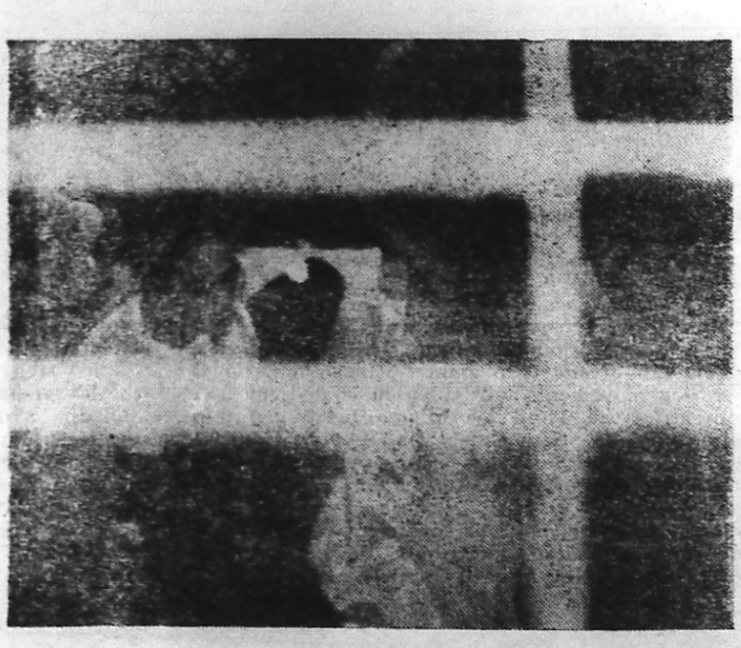
1. Every week, on orders from camp chiefs Le Kim Khanh and Luc Van Keo, a dozen thugs would encircle and then irrupt into the undergrounds to search for "articles banned by regulations." As the search came to a close, it occurred that all of a sudden the rascals wrapped up prisoners in blankets, and knocked, kicked or trampled upon them until they lost consciousness. The same atrocity was afterward repeated in the other cells of the sector.

2. On April 29, 1973 with the coordination of over 80 thugs two well armed field police companies hurled tear-gas grenades into Ward 11 and the condemned cell of the 33 as well as Wards 6, 7, 8 and 9 for female detainees and the infirmary of Camp 2. 200 women and the aforesaid 33 were shifted to Sectors B and E of Camp 7 under the pretext that their names were not on the list of prisoners to be returned.

3. On May 5, 1973 the same two field police companies and 50 thugs came to Sector B of Camp 7. They forced the 200 female inmates to apply for the "open-arms partisan" status, to be photographed and put their fingerprints on forms, and as they refused the thugs beat them up, wounding 30.

4. On May 6, 1973, 30 thugs under camp chief Luc Van Keo's command came to Sector E allegedly for inspection purposes. They irrupted into each cell and savagely beat up the 33 prisoners: several were seriously wounded.

5. On the night of May 7, 1973, superintendent Le Kim Khanh and some thugs broke into women's cell in Sector B and raped two of them. The next day morning, all the female inmates staged a shouting protest. The prison direction had to admit the outrage and transfer the offenders to another Camp.



US-Thieu penitentiary regime: men in tiger cages

The anti-TVA protest

THROUGH the whole of July to mid-August, 1973 the TVA, termed by the Saigon press a "calamity" tax reduced all economic, literary, medical, educational, social... activities in Saigon to a standstill. Business circles strongly reacted. Hundreds of shops closed down, took down their shop-signs, stopped production and transactions and ceased drawing goods from stocks. Vendors at 35 markets overtly refused to register their books and demanded that the Thieu administration cancel the tax. 100 actions including protest meetings were staged. On July 13, more than 4,000 representatives of half a million small businessmen, vendors, and handicraftsmen took to the street. "The people have not enough rice to eat and not enough clothing to wear and yet Mr Thieu's administration has imported this imperialistic tax into Viet Nam," complained the small businessmen, "TVA must be returned to the United States!" "The administration has sent the price of raw materials soaring," representatives of handicraftsmen said "commodities find no purchaser, production comes to a stop. We don't understand why this TVA has been instituted. Handicraftsmen will be heading towards total bankruptcy, workers will die of famine, foreign goods will freely invade our markets." Small traders in fish and vegetables at the Ong Lanh Bridge also raised their voices: "The administration wants to impose taxes on stored goods... Now fish is stored in rivers and vegetables in paddies, if the administration wants to collect the taxes let it go down to rivers and paddies to work out its amount. As for us, we do not know how to do it!"

Besides, a teach-in was organized in an extraordinary congress of small businessmen and traders in Saigon - Gia Dinh - Cho Lon and a petition was filed for reduction of TVA. Traders combined action with Lambretta drivers, Saigon port dockers, workers of SHELL, ESSO, CALTEX firms, civil aviation company, Ha Tien cement works and members of trade guilds to fight for a wage lift and TVA cut.

On July 9, more than 400 Lambretta drivers and workers on 12 Saigon routes went on strike to protest TVA and fines. On July 16, 500 representatives of 10,000 workers in Saigon - Gia Dinh - Cholon again held an anti-TVA rally in which freedom to form trade-unions was also claimed. 80 percent of all weaving-mills in the Bay Hien area closed down in protest. On July 17, 200 women vendors at Kim Thien market met to urge cancellation of TVA. On July 10, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Organization of Industrialists and Traders, the Trade-Union of Importers and Exporters, the Association of Private School teachers the Center of Writers, etc. went to the Saigon "Senate" to ask for exemption from TVA. The Association of Private School Teachers denounced that the new imposition had resulted in the closing of 50 percent of the private schools. Importers and exporters of industrial goods declared a halt to their activities, transactions and no longer drew goods from their stocks. A march to the Senate was staged by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with hundreds of traders to demand revision of TVA On July 22, 150 representatives of CALTEX workers held an extraordinary protest meeting against the tax and their employers' breach of faith. On July 24 more than 10,000 families of small businessmen in textiles in Saigon-Gia-Dinh-Cholon denounced TVA as the cause of the 3-fold increase in the price of yarn which reduced them to unemployment and eventually to total bankruptcy. Saigon dockers urged that their wages be paid in rice since the latter's price had gone up as a result of TVA. On July 23 a communiqué was issued by transport owners against the imposition which sent the price of tyres up 100 percent and that of spare parts 100 to 150 percent. The Federation of Saigon Trade Unions sounded an alarm, as TVA had led to the closing of most construction-works and 50-80 percent of carpenters and masons became jobless. Saigon lawyers also called a teach-in to score TVA as "unjust" and as a source of unrest in the economic and social life.

The nature of Saigon taxes and methods to collect them were prominent in the Saigon press. Nearly all papers devoted extensive space to actions of the anti-TVA front being formed by various social segments in South Viet Nam. The *Dien Tin* (Telegraph), the *Dai Dan Toc* (Great Nation) the *Hoa Binh* (Peace), the *Cong Luan* (Public opinion) and the *Chinh Luan* (Righteous Opinion) unanimously flayed it as a source of the people's sufferings and pointed out that its victims were old and young people alike, not excluding even the dead. Tin milk and diapers for babies were liable to 10 percent TVA; so were coffins and winding sheets. It was denounced as the most unjust and irrational tax, not only a calamity for industrialists and traders, but also for writers and journalists. Large masses of the people were hit by the escalation of prices. Rice became alarmingly scarce in Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Quang Tin... The responsibility for the rice shortage and the worsening of the living conditions rests unquestionably with the Thieu administration. It was urged to reconsider its system of taxes, lower them, cut administrative expenditures and ensure a decent living for army men and civil servants.

The anti-TVA fight waged by the townsfolk has won over quite a number of MPs and civil servants. MPs Nguyen Van Minh, Nguyen Van Dien, Tran Dinh Ngoc, Tran Ngoc Bay declared: "Everyone is upset by TVA. No one dares go shopping for fear of exorbitant prices. TVA is too complicated. Services and commercial transactions should be exempted from it. It is unjust because it is imposed on consumers and small traders and the poorest is the hardest hit. It should be revised. The administration has gone the length of forcing physicians to extort TVA from their patients. If we MPs can't understand what TVA is, how can other people understand it? From Saigon down to the smallest village consumers have to pay TVA four times for each commodity."

In July 1973, hundreds of thousands of policemen officers and men sent petitions to Thieu asking for the cancellation or postponement of the tax, stabilization of the market and adequate supply of foods and foodstuffs. Saigon NCOs and soldiers moaned that their daily rations were reduced from 57 piasters to 7 piasters as a result of TVA. As a matter of fact the Saigon administration made a twofold cut on their salaries: apart from reduced rations they received now 11,7000 piasters in cash enough for them to buy only 10 litres of rice every month.

Workers, small traders and vendors, students and pupils all said: "So long as Thieu remains in office, poverty, death, diseases will still prevail. His name is associated with heavy taxes, price rises, slump, high tuition fees, no schooling, prison!" NCOs, soldiers, policemen and civil servants commented: "Thieu's survival only leads to war and killing!" Intellectuals mused: "Thieu is the synonym of fascism, dictatorship, lack of freedom." Businessmen reflected: "Thieu means bankruptcy and the crippling of all businesses."

The anti-TVA struggle of the South Viet Nam townsfolk has driven the Thieu regime one step back. It is going on. No doubt, the emerging anti-TVA front will eventually carry the day.

Land grabbers punished

IN July 1973, the Tra Vinh PLAF fought off many enemy operations of encroachment upon the liberated areas, putting out of action 1,068 men (2 battalions, 1 company and 3 platoons), downed 4 choppers, destroyed 4 vehicles and seized over 100 firearms. Between July 27 and August 4, guerillas and regional troops of the same province mounted many attacks against *bao an* Battalions 473 and 404, in which they wiped out 100 men of Battalion 473 (including commander) and routed the whole Battalion 404. At the same time, on August 4, they took prisoner a whole "people's self-defence" company, illegally guarrisoned at Vam Trem Lon, Tieu Can district.

Between July 28 and August 1st, regional units and guerillas of Bien Hoa and Thu Dau Mot provinces destroyed many 105mm guns, wiped out 50 enemy troops encroaching upon the Trang Bom liberated zone and over 50 others engaged in raids on the liberated areas north of Dong Xoai.

Between August 1st and 10, the Quang Ngai PLAF attacked Ranger Battalions 39 and 60, Battalion 3 of Regiment 5, Ranger Battalion 68, armoured battalion 2 involved in Operation Quyet Thang 13-73 to encroach upon the liberated areas of Nui Dau (12 miles west of Son Tinh), Nui Dat (over 7 miles west of Son Tinh) Nui Tron, Binh Nam village, Binh Son district: they knocked out 230 enemy soldiers, wrecked many M.113s, 2 heavy guns and the enemy fortifications illegally built in the liberated areas, blew up 2 ammunition depots and seized 50 fire-arms and many transceivers. The guerillas and regional troops also put out of action two *bao an* platoons at Cho Bo (Son Tinh) Binh Trung village (Binh Son district) while they were building their posts in the liberated zone.

During the same period, Saigon aircraft and artillery released and fired 2,500 bombs and shells in support of their infantrymen and armoured vehicles encroaching upon the liberated areas of Ta Phien village and Lai Thieu canal. Enemy war vessels bombarded the free zone along the Cai Lon river and Battalion 1 of Regiment 3 made an incursion into Vinh Hoa Hung village (Go Quao district), whereas Bao An troops mounted mop-ups and illegally built posts in the liberated areas of Soc Trang province. The regional troops and guerillas of these provinces sank or burnt 9 war vessels on Cai Lon river (Rach Gia province), wrote off 7 platoons, 2 companies and flattened 6 posts and 3 blockhouses.

On August 7 and 8, 2 battalions of Regiment 41, Saigon Division 22, covered by armour and artillery intruders into Qui Thuan and Gia An, lobbing over 4,000 shells on Qui Thuan aud Gia An hamlets, over one mile to 2.5 miles from Tam Quan; Saigon war planes flew 41 sorties during which they used 350 bombs on these areas. The intercepting Binh Dinh PLAF put out of action 180 enemy troops and captured many others, damaged 8 tanks and armoured cars and seized many fire-arms, and transmitters. The survivors fled from the PRG-held areas.

In the first ten days of August 1973, from Thua Thien, enemy aircraft mounted 134 strikes on Cua Viet, Dong Ha, Lao Bao, Sa Tram, Ba Long, fired rockets on Tam Dan, Bach Ma, A Luoi and the southwest of Road 12. Four or 5 war vessels usually carried out provocations in the territorial waters of Thanh Hoi, Vinh Hoa and Cua Viet. Meanwhile, Battalion 1 and 3 of Regiment 3, fired 1,500 shells in support of operations or the liberated zone northwest of Khe Thai (Huong Tra), smuggled 7 commando parties into Bach Ma. They were intercepted by the Thua Thien PLAF who took a toll of over 140 enemy, seized or destroyed many guns and downed 2 helicopters and damaged another one.

Thieu's illegal senate elections

THE Thieu administration organized on Sunday Aug. 26, 1973 elections to fill the 30+1 vacant seats at the Saigon Senate. These elections were illegal in many respects.

First, the Saigon regime is essentially illegal. The so-called Republic of Viet Nam was born of a fraudulent referendum in 1955 held in violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, which explicitly recognized Viet Nam's sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity.

The 1967 Saigon Constitution styles itself democratic, but in fact institutes a disguised presidential regime, a thoroughly anti-democratic one, a Diem regime without Diem, as aptly described by US researcher Daniel Ellsberg now famous for his courageous publication of the Pentagon Papers.

In this utterly dictatorial and medieval Constitution — Article 4 outlaws the "Communist doctrine in any form" and prohibits "all acts aimed at making propaganda for the Communist doctrine or at carrying it out — the Senate or Upper Chamber is only a trick to create the illusion of a bicameral system. In fact, this Senate Upper Chamber is neither a Chamber of States nor a Soviet of Nationalities, nor even a gerontocratic Assembly, since the eligibility age is only 30 against 25 for the Lower Chamber. The institution of "young senators," elected by majority list ballot, apparently aims at splitting in halves and weakening the legislative body so as to give precedence to the President of the Republic who is elected by universal and uninominal ballot and at the same time to ensure a second representation to the big propertied people who are the only ones capable of forming "legal" parties and presenting valid lists of candidates under such a regime.

The Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, in proclaiming respect for Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements logically postulates the abolition or at least suspension of the 1967 Saigon Constitution until the holding of free and democratic elections to set up institutions "agreed upon through consultations between the two South Vietnamese parties."

It is true that no provision expressly forbids any South Vietnamese party to organize local or partial elections in its own zone. However Article 9-b of the Agreement stipulates in principle that "the South Vietnamese people shall decide themselves the political future of South Viet Nam through genuinely free and democratic general election under international supervision."

Under Articles 11 and 12 of the Agreement, the parties will achieve national reconciliation and concord, ensure the democratic liberties of the people, hold consultations to set up a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord and sign an agreement on the internal matters of South Viet Nam within ninety days after the cease-fire comes into effect. The National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord will organize the free and democratic general elections provided for in Article 9-b.

Now the 90-day limit has expired and yet none of the above provisions have been put into effect owing to US-Thieu sabotage. The June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué, in its Point 10, after re-affirming that "the South Vietnamese people shall decide themselves the political future of South Viet Nam through free and democratic general elections under international supervision," stipulates that "the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord consisting of three equal segments shall be formed as soon as possible," and that "the two South Vietnamese parties shall sign an agreement on the internal matters of South Viet Nam as soon as possible and shall do their utmost to accomplish this within forty-five days from the date of signature of this Joint Communiqué."

This new 45-day deadline has also passed by and yet nothing has been achieved owing again to US-Thieu sabotage. In the light of these facts, the partial Senate elections in the Saigon-controlled zone constituted an act of sabotage of the Paris Agreement by the Saigon party. The latter is all the more to blame as it always claimed, even after the signing of the Joint Communiqué, to be the sole legitimate government of South Viet Nam. The August 26, 1973 Senate elections, meant to back this preposterous claim was a flagrant violation of the Paris Agreement and the Joint Communiqué.

How did they take place? Joseph Treaster, in the *International Herald Tribune* of Aug. 8, 1973, reported that there were 4 tickets of 15 candidates plus 3 to 4 alternates each for 31 vacant seats—30 in virtue of the principle of yearly renewal of one half and the 31st left vacant by Tran Van Huong who became Thieu's vice-president in the October 1971 infamous presidential elections. There were consequently two winning lists and the one that would get the greater number of votes would have 16 seats, against two losing lists. Who should be the winners but those on the "Democratic" list headed by a certain Mr Tran Minh Tong, secretary general, of the Party bearing that name, and having Nguyen Van Thieu as its president, and those of a second list headed by a certain Mr Tran Van Lam who had resigned his post as Foreign Minister to try his luck—to become a senator and perhaps the Senate speaker, a more lucrative job. As the winners were known beforehand, the people did not seem interested in the elections.

The local press was more explicit, despite a severe censorship. Thus the *Dai Dan Toc* (Great Nation), a Saigon newspaper, reported that the candidates, even the most official ones, got into touch with the least voters possible, especially journalists. If ever they happened to meet the latter they would answer only questions dealing with non-committal matters—like the weather.

AFP quoted 10 pro-Duong Van Minh and anti-Thieu senators as stating on July 3, 1973 that they would not sit on any election committee either in Saigon or in the provinces since the August 26 elections were only a travesty of democracy; "all candidates were pro-governmental and winners were known beforehand."

In the present state of war while the Nguyen Van Thieu administration is still arbitrarily holding in jail more than 200,000 political detainees and has been arresting tens of thousands of other patriots and peace partisans in virtue of a fascist legislation including some 60 iniquitous decrees-laws and decrees, it was natural that there were no contestants running against the *gia no* (house servants) whom Nguyen Van Thuc, on the US Embassy's advice, had appointed to run for the 31 vacant seats of his rubber stamp Senate, the Aug. 26, 1973 elections whatever their results were only parody of democracy.

However, contrary to what Joseph Treaster has related, the people in the Saigon-controlled zone were not indifferent at all. They poohpoohed the new US-Thieu electoral farce and condemned the illegality not only of the Aug. 26 Senate elections but the whole Thieu regime as well. If there was no strong expression of such a feeling against the election, it was because it was not the fundamental issue. The fundamental issue is rather to fight for the full and strict implementation of the Paris Agreement and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué, which will certainly lead to genuinely free and democratic general elections and to the abolition of the US-Thieu regime with all its sinister or burlesque institutions and its henchmen, zealous agents of Yankee neo-colonialism.

XUAN KHANH

In our liberated zone

Production, transport and communication

— Up to the end of July 1973, the Quang Tri inhabitants cleared and rehabilitated over 4,000 hectares more of fields for the 8th and 10th month rice. From now to the end of the 10th month rice crop, they will put an additional acreage of 1,800 hectares under the 10th month rice, and hundreds of hectares under sweet potatoes and cassava roots. In the past 6 months, the sea fishermen in Quang Tri province caught over 350 tons of fish.

— Recently the Revolutionary People's Committee of Quang Tri province has started a campaign called "Under the August Revolution flag, clear virgin land." Beginning this movement, 2,000 hectares of virgin land will be reclaimed in the area of the McNamara electronic fence from Hien Luong to Doc Mieu, and 6,000 hectares of ricefields rehabilitated in many districts of the province.

— In the first 6 months of 1973, in Quang Tri province, 5,000 cubic metres of stone and 18,500 cubic metres of earth were handled, 7,000 trips of carts were made to transport material and 23,500 work days were spent on restoring communication lines and building new ones. Land and water transport means made it possible for the refugees to return to their native places and the inhabitants to go about their work. Meanwhile, the people of South Central Viet Nam overfulfilled the norm set for the planting of 10th month rice. In Ninh Thuan alone, there was an increase of 500 hectares of ricefields and over [illegible] hectares of mil[illegible]. Compared with 1972, that province recorded a boost of 10 per cent. The inhabitants of South Central Viet Nam have set up 500 mutual-aid teams and [illegible] 100 labour co-operation teams.

In such districts as Tuy Phong, Bac Binh, Loc Ninh and Bu Gia Map, the per capita inhabitant grows an average of [illegible] hectare of rice and other food [illegible] husbandry has been stepped up.

Up to July 1973, in Central Nam Bo, 150,150 hectares were brought under rice cultivation (72,000 hectares of fallow fields and 2,000 hectares of reclaimed land in Kien Phong, 42,000 hectares of 10th month ricefields in Kien Tuong). Compared with 1972, the gain was 30 per cent at Kien Tuong and 3 times at Kien Phong. My Tho province has, in addition to the cultivation of last year's acreage of ricefield, put back under crops 1,000 hectares of fallow land. Despite the havoc wrought by enemy land-grabbing operations, the peasants in the liberated areas of north Cai Lay (My Tho province) completed the harvest of 4,000 hectares of early rice and the transplanting of 30,000 hectares of 10th month rice. In the provinces of Ben Tre, My Tho, Kien Tuong and Kien Phong, tens of thousands of hectares of land were planted with coconut palms and other kinds of fruit-trees.

In 1973, with all the acreage of fallow land restored to cultivation, the cultivated area of Ca Mau province goes up to over 100,000 hectares (including about 10,000 hectares of early ricefield and 2-crop ricefields), an increase of 20,000 hectares over 1972. The farmers of Vinh Long province have finished harvesting 150,000 hectares of early rice.

Health work

In the first 6 months of 1973, the Health Service of Kien Tuong province trained a new batch of 140 nurses and first-aiders, gave medical attention, and prophylactic inoculations to the population in the liberated zone. It also produced 22 kinds of tonics and anti-biotics. Meanwhile the Heath Services of Tay Ninh, My Tho and Kien Tuong provinces sent thousands of physicians, medical workers and nurses to various villages and hamlets to build a network of infirmaries, first aid stations and maternity-homes. At present nearly all the district medical services are managed by assistant doctors, and all the villages in these provinces possess their own infirmaries. Tens of millions of *dong* have been allotted to these provinces to build medical structures.

Our Grand Revolution cause

TWENTY eight years ago, the August Revolution was brought to a successful end all over the country. The people's revolutionary power was established from Lang Son to Ca Mau. On September 2nd, 1945, President Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, thereby heralding in an era of independence and freedom for our nation. It crowned a 15-year epic under the leadership of the Indochinese Communist Party founded and headed by President Ho Chi Minh.

Since then, our people have successively fought two victorious wars of resistance against French and US imperialism and liberated 3/4 of our territory. After the Dien Bien Phu victory, the North, completely liberated, has taken the socialist path and become the solid base of our entire country's revolution. After the successful anti-US resistance, the Vietnamese revolution has switched over to a new stage. Its strength has grown more powerful than ever in every field whereas its international status has been raised to an all-time high.

The Vietnamese revolution is a major revolution of our times. It is concurrently a most arduous, complicated and thorough one. Its basic motive force is the working class and its leader, a Communist Party. It is the first to erupt in the colonial system of imperialism and in an area where most contradictions are concentrated and revolutionary fervour is the most ardent. History has entrusted the Vietnamese nation with a medium-size population and area with the mission to victoriously confront two most brutal chieftains of world capitalism and to defeat the corrupt local feudalism and comprador bourgeoisie, servile agent of imperialism. An inestimable contribution of the Vietnamese revolution has been the defeat and weakening of a veteran imperialist power of Europe, which has helped speed up the decline and disintegration of old-type colonialism. A more significant contribution of it has been the defeat of an industrial superpower of the imperialist world, who has been forced to admit an unprecedented military and political setback. This failure has given rise to its all-round emasculation, the dimming of its political image, the bankruptcy and upset of its global strategy.

There lies the historical significance of the Vietnamese revolution. Its historical mission, as described above, assumes a marked character of a class struggle and an obvious international purport. It is a major and symbolical movement of the working class, of the labouring people and of all freedom-loving nations. It upholds peace, national independence, democracy and socialism. The imperialist forces have a strong dislike for the Vietnamese revolution because it stands in the forefront of the nations' historical battle against their colonial system.

OUR confrontation with the US imperialists was a violent clash between the forces of socialism, national independence, peace and democracy on the one hand and US-led imperialism and other reactionary forces on the other. Its outcome favourable to us has resulted in momentous changes in the balance of forces between revolutionary forces and counter-revolutionary forces on a world scale, in a further weakening of imperialism, particularly of its ring-leader, in an aggravation of its crisis and divergences, and in a new reappraisal of US global strategy. On the other hand, the forces of socialism, national independence, peace and democracy have been further strengthened. Though US imperialism has not given up its warlike and aggressive design, it has been significantly enfeebled and plagued by all kinds of difficulties, whereas its opponents are steadily surging forward with an impetus most likely to be irresistible.

Undoubtedly, international conditions are very propitious to our revolution.

The US-Saigon side has been continuously breaking the Paris Agreement, dragging on the hostilities, mounting landgrabbing operations, carrying out white terror and repression in its zone. It has been using the highest level of violence to maintain neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and perpetuate the partition of our country. Under the leadership of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government, our people have been keeping up their glorious revolutionary effort to preserve lasting peace, complete independence, achieve democracy, improve their living standards, realize national concord and eventual national reunification.

Militarist, bureaucratic, comprador capitalist forces, agents of the US have been obdurately setting their faces against the supreme interests of the Fatherland and our people's fondest wishes. But they are in a great predicament. The aggressors, their main prop, have had to pack up and have been in no end of troubles. They will not be in a position to do much for their clients in the near future. The foothold of the reactionaries has shrunk and the stranglehold of the revolution has been closing in on them. Their current campaign of terror will not help them survive but will only sink them. They do not seem to have learned the lesson of their masters' failure to subdue our people with much greater violence and of the Ngo Dinh Diem clique's tragic demise.

Patriotic and democratic forces are rallying under the national concord banner. Our people's strength has got the better of the most formidable aggression of our times. It will also wipe out all the reactionary forces and complete national liberation, make Viet Nam advance on the road of progress, wash off the opprobrium of servitude to imperialism and build a peaceful, united, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam.

An editorial by the Hanoi daily NHAN DAN

Thieu dead set against people's right to self-determination

THE Thieu administration is seeking to harm the Non-Aligned Summit Conference to be held soon in Algiers by asking "friendly nations" to stay away from it, according to Saigon-datelined Western news reports.

What will come out of this frantic effort remains to be seen; but its being made at all came not as a surprise, the Thieu junta, who toes the line of US imperialism, being always tooth and nail opposed to any nation dedicated to independence and sovereignty.

This, indeed, is no hasty conclusion. Thieu, in the first place, replaced Ngo Dinh Diem as an instrument of US neo-colonialism by lending a hand to the US in the conduct of the recent aggression against Viet Nam, in an utter betrayal to his country's supreme interests and his people's legitimate aspirations.

In the US aggression against other Indochinese countries, Thieu has outshone all his predecessors in his service to his American bosses. He sent his army to Cambodia to join in the US invasion in May 1970, and kept it there for a long time even after American forces had pulled out. In February 1971, his army intruded into Southern Laos almost single-handedly. Most recently, also on Nixon's orders and despite the cessation of the US bombing campaign in Cambodia, he has, in conjunction with the Bangkok authorities, introduced his mercenary troops into that Kingdom in a desperate effort to save the Phnom Penh traitors. If he cannot do anything more outrageous right now it is only because of his limited capability.

On a wider scale, he is in close co-operation with other hirelings of imperialism elsewhere in the world. His "allies" are none other than Chiang Kai-shek, Pak Jung Hee, Thana Kittikachorn, Golda Meir, and the like, who all share one thing in common-stubborn opposition to national independence, democracy and social progress—and who have "reciprocated" his "friendship" by giving him all the aid he needs, even in terms of mercenaries, for which gesture he has amply shown his gratitude with his support for the Lon Nol regime, his backing of the Israeli aggression against Arab countries, his sympathy for the Portuguese war-makers in Africa, etc.

As rationale for his enmity to the Algiers Conference in particular and to genuinely Non-Aligned nations in general, Thieu says he does not like the majority of these nations' recognition of the RSVN PRG as the legitimate government and authentic representative of the people of South Viet Nam. Naturally, his regime — self-styled as the "only constitutional and legitimate" one in South Viet Nam—is in no way sympathetic to the rising revolutionary movement in the Third World countries, which movement, diametrically opposed to Thieu's toeing the line of imperialism and throwing the door wide open to monopoly capitalist investments, concretely manifests itself in the continued struggle of politically independent countries to consolidate their sovereignty over their natural riches while helping other nations wrest back their own political independence and promoting mutual support against imperialist economic and cultural invasion and intervention.

Thieu's attitude to the Non-Aligned movement is, therefore, not unusual. What really is is that he has not yet realized that to join the US band-wagon now is suicide. How can a third-rate lackey hopes to succeed where such a big imperialist power as the US has failed?

And, Thieu's foolish attempt has made the world public see with greater clarity that of the two administrations existing in South Viet Nam at present, the RSVN PRG is the only one that can claim to be the authentic representative of the people there.

South Vietnamese people struggling against Thieu dictatorship

THE DRVN IN BRIEF

One million general education pupils taking terminal examinations

Terminal examinations for the school year 1972—1973 were taken in all provinces and towns in North Viet Nam by nearly one million general education school children (20,000 more than last year).

2.000 engineers trained on the job

In the past 14 years thousands of public employees and workers have been attending higher education courses run by the Polytechnic College ; 2.000 of them have graduated with honours.

Cast-iron-dust moulds

The moulding section of the Polytechnic College has designed a kind of mould made of pressed cast-iron dust similar to the one made of cast iron. This invention makes operation simpler and can be given elaborate shapes.

Second brass sickle discovered.

The first brass sickle was found in Vinh Phu province in 1965 and the second has just been discovered in the third excavation made on Chua Thong hill (Hanoi), similar in shape to the first one and to the sickle still in use now.

Researches have established that it was a farm tool used in the lowlands and midlands of North Viet Nam. It proves the homogeneity of rice cultivation already widespread in the Hung Kings period in the lowlands and midlands.

A centrifugal exhaustion fan 2nd degree developed.

The Industrial Engineering Designing Institute, Engineering and Metallurgy Ministry has developed a centrifugal exhaustion fan 2nd degree to be used for blast furnaces...

It has also designed a kind of two-way centrifugal pump of big size for pure water and having a high geyser power operating at temperature between 20 and 28°C.

More export items available

Over the past 6 months, Thanh Hoa has manufactured a total of 246,000 sq m. of mats and rugs for export approximating the 1972 production in this line. It also turns out such export items as Lebanese-style mats, rugs, plaited maize-leaf rugs, bamboo blinds, baskets, lace-work, mother-of-pearl inlaid work, wood carvings, stone sculptures.

200 small power stations harnessed to agriculture

At present North Viet Nam possesses over 200 small hydro power stations of from 10 to 1000-kilowatt capacity in 16 provinces in the highlands and midlands and in the 4th zone. These stations irrigate 5,500 hectares of rice-fields and operate rice-husking and fodder-processing machines.

Pump networks serving cultivation

President Marien N'Gouabi on visit in DRVN

PRESIDENT Marien N'Gouabi and other distinguished Congolese guests arrived in Hanoi on August 4 for a goodwill visit at the invitation of DRVN President Ton Duc Thang.

The following day, the Congolese President held talks with his host, President Ton Duc Thang, in an atmosphere of sincerity, friendship and mutual understanding. He and his entourage also attended a welcome meeting of the Hanoi population.

At a state banquet, President Ton Duc Thang said :

"The visit by President M. N'Gouabi and the other distinguished guests from Congo is a vivid expression of the militant solidarity that has for long bound the peoples of our two countries in the struggle against US-led imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and for independence and freedom.

"The Vietnamese people have followed with deep sympathy the persistent battle whose peak was the "Three Glorious Days" in August 1965, and which has been fought by the people of Congo for the consolidation of their national sovereignty and for the construction of their beloved country. The People's Republic of Congo, thanks to her big achievements in all fields, has steadily improved her standing in Africa and the world at large..."

In his reply, President M. N'Gouabi said :

"Only in Hanoi can we see the serious aftermaths of the unjust war of aggression of US imperialism against the peace-loving people of Viet Nam.

"I wish to renew on behalf of the Congolese people our firm support for you. This support we have expressed everywhere, chiefly on the banks of the Congo River. And today, we have come here, to the banks of the Hong Ha River, to say it again.

"The sufferings of the Vietnamese people have lasted too long.

"For this very reason we want, here, to appeal to the conscience of all nations, all peace-lovers in the world. Let they increase their vigilance and efforts so that the victory of the Vietnamese people as embodied by the Paris Agreement might not be jeopardized by the brazen violations by US imperialism and the Saigon administration.

"We also wish Your Excellency greater success in the re-establishment of a lasting peace in your country, so that the people of Viet Nam may continue their endeavour for the socialist construction of North Viet Nam and the completion of independence and freedom in Viet Nam, and eventual reunification of their country..."

President M. N'Gouabi and the other distinguished Congolese guests left the capital of the DRVN on the morning of August 6, at the end of their very successful visit.

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Here and There

OPTIMISM

Phnom Penh is on its last legs, foreign residents and nearly 3,000 families of big shots and wealthy traders are evacuating the capital while the stranglehold of the Cambodian Liberation Army is tightening in, despite stepped-up B.52 strikes before the 15 of August deadline and Lon Nol's general mobilization decree.

As if to make the picture gloomier, U.S. airmen once, no, five times more indulged in the game of "bombing by mistake" on Neak Luong, Cotachu and other places, where Phnom Penh troops and civilians suffered heavy losses. As expected, after each error, the US side first keeps mum, then after second thought, produces a profusion of explanations of the most convincing kind : faulty signal on coordinates from Lon Nol men, weariness of overworked US pilots, skill of the CLA in foiling spotting work, their sudden moves in the meantime, and so on and so forth. Just to set at peace the Cambodian people's and "our dear allies' " minds.

What does Phnom Penh's "mayor" think about such excuses ? Nothing. And he remains calm and cool in front of the pandemonium. Well-informed sources opine that such a fortitude in front of his imminent doom has been instilled into him by his fortune-teller-in-chief who is said to have assured him that he would be able to stay in the saddle until 1976.

Why until 1976, the year of the end of Nixon's second tenure? The oracle has not let out all heaven's secrets.

US - SAIGON SABRE - RATTLING

Meanwhile, US Defense Department spokesman let it be known on August 13 that after the halt of the bombing of Cambodia, if US reconnaissance and transport planes were fired at, they might be escorted by armed aircraft or other military measures would be taken.

Gayler, C.i.C of US armed forces in the Pacific, reiterated on August 14 that the US would take time withdrawing its planes and personnel from South-east Asian bases and that what it would leave behind would depend on the behaviour of the North Vietnamese, their attitude and the extent of their implementation of the Paris Agreement. And Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Long Boret chimed in, saying that the presence of North Viet Nam was the main obstacle to a peaceful settlement of the Cambodia issue. On the other hand, Western sources announced that a 15,000-men division of mercenaries of Khmer descent in South Viet Nam was ready to move into the capital capital if Lon Nol was driven to the brink of the abyss.

Moreover Thieu seemed these last weeks to be well "wrought up" by his boss. On August 5, at the "Day of People's Self-Defence" ceremony, he took the floor to lash out at the communists. No genuine peace in Viet Nam ! No democratic freedoms for them ! No National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord ! Wipe out communist cadres ! Economic blockade of the PRG-controlled areas ! And other fiery outbursts, which are likely to cover up fresh Nixon moves in Indochina while the bitter lesson of the recent setback have not apparently sunk in. But the judgement of history will roll on.

COMPANIONS IN ADVERSITY

While at the White House, Nixon continued to be at loggerheads with the Senate and the House over the Watergate scandal, all of a sudden the Number 2 man came under investigation for criminal offences : bribery, extortion and tax frauds. The enquiry begun in January 1973 will have to be reported to a jury.

As soon as he learned of the action from US press, Nixon had a secret interview with Agnew for 1 hour 45 minutes late into the night of August 7. The main theme of the pow wow is said to be mutual sympathy and loyalty between companions in adversities as well as in prosperities. But there was nothing of the kind. White House sources revealed that during the talk, Nixon recommended his deputy not to give a press conference at once. But eventually the latter did not seem to take the former's advice and appeared before the press the very next morning to present a plea. The same source reported that the US President's reaction to the Veep's trouble was pretty cold while Agnew did not seem to care much for his help. The Vice President of the US, he said, will stand on own feet and will not waste time looking round for support and will take up his defence himself.

The new divergence between the President and the Vice-President, and the current investigations involving them will compound the Republican Party's difficulties in nominating a contestant for the 1976 race.

And in addition to Watergate, public opinion will be treated from now on to revelations on Agnew's "dirty dealings."

HUONG NAM

Peace and national concord will triumph in Laos

IN the last six months of the implementation of the Lao peace agreement, the patriotic forces have done everything—even necessary concessions at the conference table — to conclude the Protocol to the Vientiane Agreement and form the Provisional Government of National Union and the National Coalition Political Council.

None of these constructive efforts, however, had been reciprocated by the ultra rightists in the Vientiane administration. According to *KPL*, the rubber stamp national assembly and ultra reactionary elements in the army have met again and again in the last three weeks to seek ways and means to wreck the peace agreement and forestall the signature of the protocol, on which the two delegations have at last come to an agreement after prolonged discussions. As recently as on August 11, a meeting for the same purpose was held right at the home of Ngon Sananikone. Present were Sananikone's men, a number of high-ranking officers of the army, and key officials of the administration.

Besides, at US instigation, the Vientiane administration, between July 24 and 30, deployed ten air-supported battalions in violent attacks on various liberated areas of Savannakhet province. On August 9, Vientiane aircraft even reconnoitred and bombed many hamlets north of Paksong town, while Vientiane troops intruded into the northeastern part of Sedon, Saravane province.

The Vientiane Agreement is the embodiment of the Lao people's fondest desire — peace and national concord. As such, it is gaining increasing support from the people of all walks of life. Right in Vientiane, large numbers of civil servants, soldiers and policemen have come out against the saboteurs of peace — the ultra rightist elements — and statements and petitions have been made public and demonstrations or meetings organized to support it. Six mass organizations, including the ones of students and intellectuals, have issued a joint statement demanding immediate restoration of peace and national concord.

There is no doubt as to the utter isolation of the forces that oppose the supreme interests of Laos and the greatest aspirations of the people of that country. These forces — unless they stop bowing to the will of US imperialism and cease undermining peace and national concord in Laos — will lamentably fail.

Because Peace and National Concord will triumph in that kingdom.

DINH BA

* IN BRIEF

— "Viet Nam has set an example for all countries of the Third World, however small they may be, in the struggle against imperialism" (President Marien N'Gouabi of the People's Republic of Congo, August 9).

— "The Vietnamese people's fight has become the focal point of the struggle against our common enemy — US imperialism and colonialism. The Government, the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party and the people of Syria always stand by Viet Nam until complete victory" (Mohamed Halibi, President of the National Assembly of the Syrian Arab Republic, August 4).

— "Solidarity with and support for Viet Nam should be shown not only by meetings and statements alone. The Colombia National Working People's Union has put out the slogan : 'Send cement as aid to Viet Nam.' It is in this way that the working people in our country have practically expressed their solidarity with the Vietnamese" (Juan Viana, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Colombia).

— The Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (GDR) has launched a campaign of daily and concrete support for Viet Nam. The organisation has so far collected 2,200,000 marks for the rebuilding of the Viet Nam-GDR Friendship Hospital in Hanoi.

Besides, the Halle Section of the German League of Culture has gathered 17,000 marks for the same purpose.

Money collections for the reconstruction of Vinh (capital of Nghe An province) are stepped up by the workers at the Meisen Turbine Factory and the Georgi Dimitrov Crane Factory at Magdeburg. In addition, administrative personnel at the G. Dimitrov enterprise voluntarily did overtime to raise money for Viet Nam.

— The Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Socialist Youth Union has recently issued a statement saying : "We do not halt our support and assistance to our friends. It is more necessary than ever to stress the slogan "Viet Nam, solidarity with you is continuing".

— In its recent visit to Viet Nam, the delegation of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party has given the Vietnamese a sum of 5,000 dollars collected by Puerto Rican youths and students to help Viet Nam's reconstruction.

Cambodia

US aggressive design remains unchanged

THE Nixon administration had to stop the bombing of Cambodia on August 15, as a result of its growing military and political setbacks and increasing Congressional and popular pressure for an end to all US involvement in Indochina.

This, of course, does not indicate any change in the Cambodian policy of the Nixon administration.

The inefficacy of the bombing had long been public knowledge. *AP*, reviewing it on August 15, said the massive bombing conducted by US air forces in Indochina for eight years and a half had failed to produce any types of the peace the US was seeking, and for all the 170,000 tons of bombs dumped on the Khmer insurgents in the last 6 months the US could not impose a cease-fire and the future of the US-backed government in Phnom Penh remained gloomy.

Indeed, the 160-day blitz by US aircraft, chiefly B.52's, could not prevent the Cambodian liberation forces from tightening their stranglehold on Phnom Penh, the last fastness of the Khmer traitors; neither could it do anything to boost the sagging morale of the Lon Nol army.

The only thing the bombing could achieve was the eruption of volcanic protests right in the States. For the first time both the Senate and the House were unanimous in one single action by forcing the US President to stop the bombing at a fixed date. This shows how the immorality and the heavy costs of the US war of aggression have shocked the conscience of millions of Americans and prompted a major segment of American political circles to act for a change in the US policy regarding Southeast Asia. It should also be remembered that right when the bombing was in full swing a number of American flyers refused to take off and others disclosed many secret bombing plans.

The Nixon administration has now to give in under pressure on all hands; but this does not mean it has abandoned its aggressive design upon this region of the world. It is blaming Congress while threatening the peoples of Indochina and seeking new ways to carry on its aggression in the "Nixon doctrine" formula.

This "doctrine," as explained by its author, relies on three mainstays — US military might; the sharing of "responsibility" or an increasing participation of vassal countries; and "negotiations" or diplomatic tricks of diversion and pressure from the outside.

Nixon is hoping to save an ailing US neo-colonialism with this formula. Now, having reduced part of the military pressure, the Nixon administration is pressing its henchmen to play a bigger role, thus revealing its unchanged design of aggression. This becomes clear with the promise of greater military and economic aids to Phnom Penh to improve the performance of the Lon Nol army, and with the introduction of Bangkok and Saigon troops, all organized, trained and equipped by the US. According to *AP*, part of these forces was flown to Pochentong airport early in August. The same source added that army units of Saigon and Bangkok, particularly the ones stationed along border areas, are preparing for a new adventure.

What is more, despite the stoppage of the bombing, US aircraft, especially the B.52's are maintained in their staging bases around Cambodia, which, as explained by the US Commander in the Pacific, is meant to be a deterrent.

What the US has said and done so far leaves no doubt as to its unchanged intention to invade Cambodia. The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, therefore, has made it clear that the ending of the bombing, though a victory for the Cambodian people, announces a new stage in the US aggression, which, due to the obduracy and wickedness of the Nixon administration, is being stepped up against an independent, peaceful and neutral Cambodia, a member of the United Nations and a founder of the non-aligned movement.

There is, therefore, every reason for the peoples of the world, first of all the American people, to step up their struggle to compel the Nixon administration to put, without any further delay, a complete halt to its aggression in Cambodia.

The South Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the NFL and the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government, identify themselves with the just struggle of the brother people of Cambodia, and the position the RGNUC on the settlement of the Cambodian issue.

DRVN-RPB

Unshakable brotherly friendship further developed

ACCORDING to *VNA*, a delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam led by Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Premier of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, paid an official friendship visit to the People's Republic of Bulgaria from August 1st to 8, 1973.

During its sojourn in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Viet Nam Party and Government delegation was received by Todor Zhivko, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, who had a cordial talks with it.

Pham Van Dong, and Le Thanh Nghi, held talks with Stanko Todorov, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Penu Kiratsov, Secretary of the Central Committee of Bulgarian Communist Party, and Hako Dakov, member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, Deputy-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and Chairman of the Commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation with the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The exchanges of views between the two Party and Government delegations proceeded in a warm atmosphere of mutual understanding. The two sides studied the state of the relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, their future development in the new conditions, and international problems of mutual concern.

The Party and Government delegation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam warmly greeted the Bulgarian people's achievements in the building of socialism. Under the leadership of the Bulgarian Communist Party, glorious Party of Dimiter Blagoev and Georgi Dimitrov, the Bulgarian people with their creative talents and their work full of abnegation, and with the big aid from the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries, have changed the face of the one-time backward Bulgaria. Bulgaria is today a socialist country endowed with a developed socialist industry and a highly mechanized collective agriculture. Its national culture has become still richer, the material and cultural living conditions of the people has improved constantly.

These big achievements of the People's Republic of Bulgaria have brought out the superiority of socialism, heightened more and more Bulgaria's position on the international arena and positively contributed to the strengthening of the world socialist system.

The Vietnamese people sincerely wish that under the leadership of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, the Bulgarian people will record still greater successes in the fulfilment of the tasks set in the program of the Bulgarian Communist Party for building a developed socialist society in Bulgaria.

The Vietnamese side informed the Bulgarian Party of the application of the Paris Agreement and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué and reaffirmed the firm stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to strictly respect and scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement and the Joint Communiqué, and to demand that the US and the Saigon administration do the same.

The Bulgarian side supports the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Republic of South VietNam Provisional Revolutionary Government stand, supports the RSVN PRG's proposals advanced on June 28, 1973 which conform with the Paris Agreement and are aimed at settling the internal affairs of South Viet Nam by peaceful and democratic means in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord, and on the basis of the recognition of the existence in South Viet Nam of two administrations, two armies, two zones of control and three political forces.

The Bulgarian Communist Party and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria reaffirmed their determination to fulfil their international duty of resolutely supporting and assisting wholeheartedly in all fields the fraternal Vietnamese people in their just struggle for the strict application of the Paris Agreement, the definitive liquidation of the aftermaths of the imperialist aggression, the preservation and the consolidation of a durable peace in Viet Nam, the successful building of socialism in the North, the development in South Viet Nam on the path of peace, independence, democracy and neutrality, and for the peaceful reunification of the country. The People's Republic of Bulgaria will extend its relations in all fields with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the only authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people.

During the talks, the Party and Government delegations of the two countries agreed upon the assistance of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in rehabilitating the economy and building socialism in the years ahead. To this end, the two sides signed appropriate agreements on the economic and military aid of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and on the goods exchanges between the two countries for 1974.

Proceeding from its internationalist duty and considering the needs of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in the liquidation of the sequels of war, the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria decided to consider all the credits granted in the war years to develop the economy in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam as gratuitous aid.

The Vietnamese side warmly thanked the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria for this generous gesture and regarded this decision as a fine manifestation of the friendship and militant solidarity between the two peoples.

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in the Middle East

Israel: – aggressor – gangster

REPORTS from the Middle East say that in the last few days very serious provocations were committed by the Israeli aggressors.

On August 9, 6 Israeli fighter planes violated Egypt's airspace.

On August 10, Israeli planes intruded into Lebanon's airspace and forced an Iraqi civil aircraft on its way from Baghdad to Beyrouth to land on an Israeli airfield. This plane was immediately surrounded by machinegun-armed Israeli troops who searched the papers and baggages of all passengers for – said Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Dayan – "top leaders of the Palestine People's Liberation Front."

Three days later, 6 Israeli boats cruised near the Suez canal bank on the Egyptian side South of Suez City and triggered the first armed conflict in the last 6 years between Egypt and Israel.

What do the Israeli aggressors want with such piratic methods in the air and on the sea in defiance of international law and on strong public condemnation in Africa and the world of their stubborn refusal to peacefully settle the Middle East problem? And what is the force behind their brazen provocations?

First of all, let us emphasize that these are a routine used by aggressors when in danger. This danger is represented by the movement launched by the Palestine people with the growing support and sympathy of the world's progressives, with a view to retaking the Arab territories illegally occupied by Israel, and defending the Palestinian's fundamental national rights. It is also caused by the emergence and alarming development of inner dissensions and difficulties within the society of Israel and her economy: social injustice, skyrocketing prices, sagging living conditions, heavy taxes as a result of huge war expenditures, weigh heavily on the national budget.

It is in such difficult circumstances that the Israeli rulers—warlike and reactionary as they are—wanted to make a show of strength to blunt the militant spirit of the Arab countries and at the same time to attract home opinion towards the realization of the aggressive policy of Israeli expansionism, thereby concealing their own difficulties and internal differences. The reckless deeds of the Israeli reactionary authorities testified to the fact that they are not only an aggressive State but also a band of international brigands who seriously threaten peace and security in the Middle East.

Everyone knows that such blatant challenges to the Arab peoples and the world's progressive opinion were possible only thanks to the support and assistance of US imperialism. It has been pointed out by Arab opinion that the Americans were the instigators of the Aug. 10 aircraft kidnapping, and that the CIA had been closely watching all movements of the Palestine Liberation Front leaders and reporting them to the Israeli aggressors. Not long ago, at the UN Security Council, the US representative abusing his right of veto had rejected a draft resolution by Non-Aligned countries on Israel's refusal to return the Arab territories seized by her in the 1967 war of aggression. On August 15, confronted with the powerful opposition of Arab and other states at the UNO, the US representative no longer dared to use his veto, but this did not mean any US renunciation of its dirty interests in the Middle East.

As a member of the world's movement for national liberation and of the family of Non-Aligned nations, the Republic of South Viet Nam forcefully condemns the provocations of the Israeli aggressors and their patrons, and strongly supports the draft resolution, by Non-Aligned countries in the UNO demanding severe sanctions against the Israeli warmongers. The South Vietnamese people one again reaffirm their sympathy with, and support for, the just cause of the Arab peoples including the Palestine people in the defence of their fundamental national rights.

DAI LIEN

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION